

March 2013



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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Safety Educator

Poison Prevention:

Use it Right, Close it Tight, Out of Sight

According to Safe Kids USA each year more than 60,000 children are treated in emergency departments due to accidental medication poisoning. That's about 165 kids – or roughly four school busloads of children – per day. Things that are convenient for grownups, like keeping vitamins by the sink, can be deadly if your child can get to them too. Keeping potentially dangerous substances out of little hands is a sure way to prevent unintentional poisoning. Below are resources to help you keep your kids safe.

Store potentially poisonous household products and medications locked out of your child's sight and reach.

- Read labels to find out what is poisonous. Unsafe household products include toilet cleaners, bleach, oven

cleaners and dishwasher products. Other potential hazards include medicines, makeup, plants, toys, pesticides, art supplies and alcohol.

- Never leave poisonous products unattended while in use. Many incidents happen when adults are distracted for a moment on



Protect your Kids from Medicine that looks like candy

the phone or at the door.

- Do not mix cleaning products.
- Buy child-resistant packages when available.
- Keep products in their original packages to avoid confusion.

- Use child safety locks on cabinets where you have stored poisonous items.

Learn the toll-free nationwide poison control center number (1-800-222-1222) or keep it near every phone.

If you suspect your child has been poisoned, take the product to the phone and call 1-800-222-1222.

If your child has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911.

- Poison control centers offer fast, free, confidential help in English and Spanish. Most poisonings are resolved over the phone. The number works from anywhere in the United States 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Follow the operator's instructions.
- Do not make the child vomit or give him anything unless directed.

<http://www.safekids.org/safety/poison/>

Attention Teachers, Parents and Students! First Annual Calendar Poster Contest



The NH State Fire Marshal's Office in collaboration with the NH Fire Prevention Society is sponsoring a statewide poster contest for third graders. The top 13 winners will have their posters printed into a calendar. Our focus for fire prevention is to make fire safety a part of daily life

throughout the year. This contest will give students the opportunity to bring home important fire safety messages and serve as reminders for their families with a different safety message covered each month.

Homeschoolers and individ-

ual students are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the contest click on the link below:

http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/pub_ed/Teacher_Education.html

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For your Safety...

The life of a smoke detector is 10 years. If your detector is 10 years or older, it should be replaced.

Smoke Detectors Require Spring Cleaning Too



Hello Kids! Sparky the Dog here and I need your help to keep your family safe. Smoke

alarms are tools that can tell us if there is smoke in the air. They work even if you can't smell smoke! However it is very important to make sure smoke detectors are in good working condition to protect you and your family. If the smoke detectors get filled with dust, they will not be able to sense the smoke and alert the people who need to evacuate. By helping and encouraging the grownups in your house to clean your smoke detectors it is the best way to make sure your smoke detectors are capable of alerting your family

when a fire occurs! So grab the grown ups in your home and let's GO!

GROWNUPS:

1. Remove your smoke detector from the ceiling or wall. It is easier to clean if you can set it on your table or hold it in your hands.
2. Remove the batteries and use a dry rag to dust the battery compartment. Place new batteries in the smoke detector and close the battery compartment
3. Vacuum any dust particles in the smoke detector
4. Spray some Pledge **on a dry rag** and **wipe down the outside** of the smoke detector. Pledge is mainly for wood, but it attracts dust and is perfect for collecting any dust on the outside of the smoke detector.

5. Replace the smoke detector to the wall or ceiling.

TEST:

Hold down the test button to make sure the smoke detector is in working order. Clean your smoke detector twice per year.



HOLD DOWN THE BUTTON TO MAKE SURE THE SMOKE DETECTOR IS IN WORKING ORDER.

For further information:

www.nfpa.org

www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/smokealarms/alarms/index.shtm



Spring Ahead! Change your Clock, Change your Battery

Daylight-saving time ended on Sunday, March 10,

at 2 a.m. It also marks the 26th anniversary of the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® (CYCCYB) program, sponsored by Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which reminds us to change and test the batteries in all smoke alarms and

carbon monoxide detectors. This message is simple and the habit can be lifesaving.

NH State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan reminds residents that this one easy step can help save lives. Marshal Degnan encourages everyone to use the extra hour "gained" from daylight-saving time to change the batteries in their own smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, test the alarms and remind friends,

family, neighbors and fellow community members to do the same.

"Many smoke alarm failures result from missing, disconnected or dead batteries," says Marshal Degnan. "Please use this day to ensure that your family is safe and change the batteries in your smoke detectors."

Please contact your local fire department if you have questions or need assistance.



Sleepover Safety for Kids

Is your child safe staying overnight at a friend's home? Before you permit your child to sleep over with a friend, talk to the child's parents. Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind during your child's sleepover. The majority of fire deaths occur late at night and if you don't know for certain that the home is equipped with working smoke alarms, and that they sleepover will be supervised by an adult,

Before you say YES, ask yourself:

- ♥ How well do you know the home?
- ♥ Is the home in a safe area?
- ♥ Is there an easy escape route for your child to leave out of in case of an emergency?
- ♥ Is your child comfortable in the home?
- ♥ Are you comfortable leaving your child there overnight?
- ♥ How well do you know the parents?
- ♥ Are they mature, responsible and conscientious?
- ♥ Will they supervise the children throughout the stay?
- ♥ Are they cautious of smoking materials such as candles, matchers and

lighters?

Ask the Parents:

- ♥ Are there working smoke alarms on every floor and inside/outside of each sleeping area of the home?
- ♥ Are the alarms interconnected?
- ♥ Do you have a well-rehearsed fire escape plan that includes a meeting place?
- ♥ Where will my child be sleeping?

Depending on what you learn it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind during your child's sleepover.

Visit the NFPA website and search for **Sleepover Safety** for your checklist

www.nfpa.org



The use of home oxygen systems has increased over the last 10 years. It's **REAL** important to practice fire safe behaviors when oxygen is in use. Medical oxygen adds a higher percentage of oxygen to the air a patient uses to breathe. Oxygen itself does not burn but a fire needs oxygen to start and to keep burning. If a fire should start in an oxygen-enriched area, the material burning will burn hotter and faster. Even if the oxygen is not being used, it may have saturated the home including clothing, curtains, furniture, bedding, hair and anything else in the

area.

Homes where medical oxygen is used need specific fire safety rules to keep people safe from fire and burns.

► Post "No Smoking" and "No Open Flames" signs in and outside the home to remind residents and guests not to smoke.

► There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. If a patient is on oxygen, they should not smoke.

► Candles, matches, wood stoves and even sparking toys, can be ignition sources and should not be used in the home.

► Keep oxygen cylinders at least five feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices.

► Body oil, hand lotion and items containing oil and grease can easily ignite. Keep oil and grease away where oxygen is in use.

► Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.

► Make sure the home is properly equipped with working smoke detectors. Test them at least

monthly.

For more information:

www.nfpa.org



Post signs inside and outside the home to remind residents and guest not to smoke.

**THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE
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**Special thanks for assistance
and contributions to:**

Deputy Chief George Clark
Temple Volunteer Fire Department
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Safety Educator

It is our hope that you find this edition of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's newsletter, *Safety Educator* to be helpful in assuring that the homes and lives of the citizens within the state of NH are made and kept as safe as possible. We ask that you share this information with family, friends and neighbors. Together we can keep our community safe. Should you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. We appreciate and look forward to hearing your comments about our *Safety Educator* newsletter.

Any Questions or Comments please feel free to contact:

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www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/

Kids can be Firefighters too! Practice Life and Fire Safety Skills online



Check
out
these

kid friendly websites re-
lated to fire and life safety



www.smokeybear.com/kids



www.ready.gov/kids



www.sparky.org



www.sesamestreet.org/ready



www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/